

LB1056

Bill History

Introduced by: Sen. Ernie Chambers

Heard by: Judiciary Committee

Bill Summary

LB1056 would adopt the Patient Choice at End of Life Act. It would allow a terminally ill person with less than six months to live to choose to end his or her life. The person must be of sound mind and be physically able to self-administer the life-ending medication.

Talking Points from Testifiers

For LB1056

- Medical aid-in-dying, as presented under LB1056, is not suicide. It involves individuals who would love to continue living but cannot because of a terminal illness.
- All Nebraskans should have the option, together with their families and doctors, to make end of life decisions that are right for them in the face of terminal illness.
- People have a right not to face the immense suffering that comes with the end of a terminal illness. Many people who report a significant relief from worry about their futures and physical pain when they know the option is available to them.

Against LB1056

- Making LB1056 the law of the land in Nebraska will only encourage medical professionals to suggest aid-in-dying medication in more cases and potentially influence life-altering decisions when a person is at his or her most vulnerable.
 - While the bill may say currently that no medical professional could be forced to provide aid-in-dying medication, what is preventing a future Legislature from amending statute and making it so?
 - LB1056 sends a harmful message to dying patients. It marginalizes them and encourages them to just end their lives because that's the easy way out. It devalues their experience and unfairly pressures families into making life-altering choices.
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Further Research

Nebraska Legislature: nebraskalegislature.gov

Unicameral Update: update.legislature.ne.gov